

### Claims

1. A domain name registry system comprising:

a registry database containing a current registration record for a domain name, the current registration record having an expiration date;

a registry management system, having access to the registry database, to delete the current registration record after the expiration date, to issue a public delete notification, and to add a new registration record for a first requesting registrar;

an acquisition database containing an acquisition request from a specific registrar to acquire the domain name as soon as practicable following the expiration date and preceding the public delete notification; and

an acquisition engine to receive from the registry management system a pending delete notification, the pending delete notification preceding the public delete notification, to access the acquisition request from the acquisition database, and to request the registry management system to add the new registration for the specific registrar.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising an acquisition front end to receive the acquisition request from the specific registrar and to store the acquisition request in the acquisition database.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the acquisition front end is a Web server, and further comprising a Web page hosted by the Web server to receive the acquisition request from the specific registrar.

4. An integrated domain name acquisition system comprising:

an acquisition database containing an acquisition request from a specific registrar to acquire a domain name as soon as practicable to follow a preceding registration for the domain name;

an acquisition front end system to receive the acquisition request from the specific registrar and to store the acquisition request in the acquisition database; and

an acquisition engine integrated with a registry system to receive from the registry system a pending delete notification for the domain name, the pending delete notification preceding a public delete notification, to access the acquisition request from the acquisition database, and to request acquisition of the domain name for the specific registrar.

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5. The system of claim 4 wherein the acquisition of the domain name is a registration of the domain name.

6. A method for acquiring a deleting domain name, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a registrar a request to acquire a desired domain name;

receiving from a registry a pending delete notification for the desired domain name, the pending delete notification preceding a public delete notification; and

requesting acquisition of the desired domain name for the registrar.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the acquisition is a succeeding registration for the desired domain name.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the acquisition includes placing the desired domain name on registration hold.

9. A method of domain name acquisition comprising:

receiving from a registrar a request to acquire a desired domain name;

storing the request in a database;

receiving from a registry system a pending delete notification for the desired domain name, the pending delete notification being received before the registry system purges the desired domain name;

correlating the pending delete notification to the request stored in the database; and

requesting acquisition of the desired domain name for the registrar.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of, prior to the requesting acquisition step:

acknowledging to the registry system receipt of the pending delete notice; and

receiving from the registry system notification that the desired domain name has been deleted.

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